

LOBLOLLY PINE

Pinus taeda L.

OTHER COMMON NAMES: Old field pine, Rosemary pine, Shortleaf pine, Yellow pine, Southern pine, Bull pine.

FORM: Height 80-100 feet, straight trunk, 2 feet and occasionally 5 feet in diameter, with thickened branches, upper branches ascending forming a compact rounded crown.

BARK: On old trunks $\frac{3}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches thick, bright red-brown, irregularly divided by shallow furrows into oblong scaly plates.

TWIGS: Slender and glabrous, during first season tinged with yellow and covered with a glaucous bloom; clothed with the reflexed inner scales of branch buds which fall off during autumn and winter leaving their bases to roughen the branches many years.

LEAVES: 6 to 9 inches long, typically in clusters of threes, bound together by a fibrous sheath and remain on the twigs 3 to 4 years, slender, stiff, slightly twisted and tipped with a sharp point.

FLOWERS: Opening from middle of March to first of May, male crowded in short spikes, yellow; female lateral below apex of the growing shoot, solitary or clustered, yellow.

FRUIT: Mature cones, 3 to 6 inches long, oblong-conic to ovoid-cylindric, becoming reddish-brown; scales thin, rounded at apex, armed with short straight or reflexed prickles; seeds rhomboidal, $\frac{1}{4}$ inch long, blotched with black.

WINTER BUDS: Widened from the base to the middle, acute or acuminate at apex; terminal bud usually twice as large as the lateral buds, being to 1 inch in length.

WOOD: Light brown, coarse-grained, not durable.

USES: Lumber, railroad ties, piling, pulp, pallets.

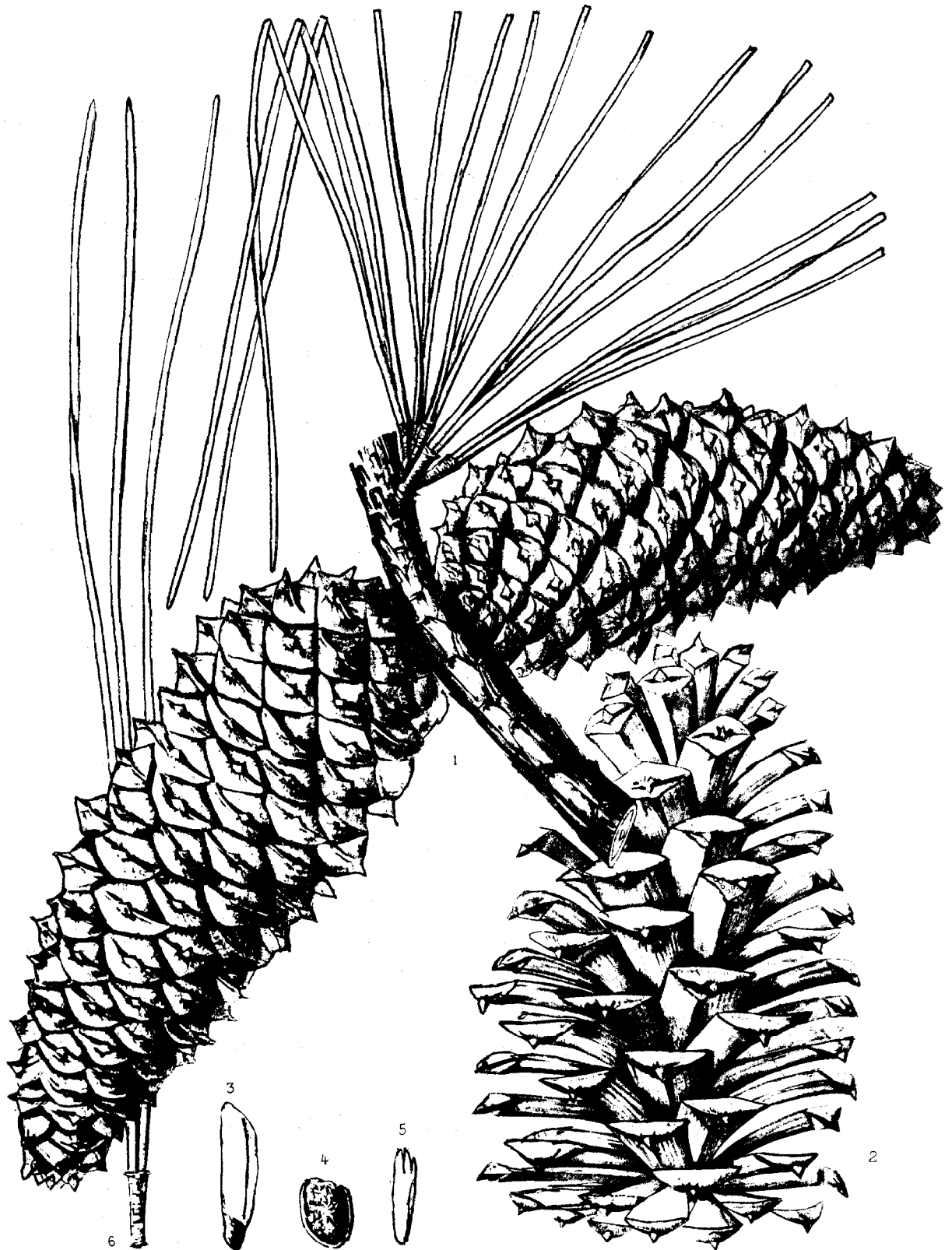
HABITAT: A great variety of soils (except the highest, wettest, and driest); its best growth is on soil that holds moisture during the growing season.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS: Bark deeply furrowed into broad oblong plates that are composed of many thin scales pressed closely together; new branches have a tinge of yellow and in their first season a fine bloom or fuzz; the buds are without resin; cone scales about 1 inch long and end in a strong reflexed spine.

DISTRIBUTION IN ALABAMA: Common throughout the state.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE

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| 1. A fruiting branch | 4. A seed, enlarged |
| 2. An expanded cone | 5. An embryo |
| 3. A seed | 6. A cluster of leaves |



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